

DC2

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



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8 April 1986

Director of Congressional Affairs

NOTE FOR: DCI  
DDCI-designate

FROM: Dave Gries

This is a very good speech, hard-hitting and explicit, yet balanced. A few comments at the clips.



Dave Gries

STAT

Distribution:

Original - Addressee  
1 - DDCI-designate  
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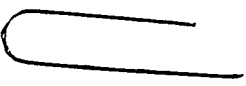
GOOD AFTERNOON. IT IS A PRIVILEGE AND A PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU TO DISCUSS NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE MEDIA. NATIONAL SECURITY HAS MANY DIMENSIONS BUT I WILL FOCUS ON ONE ELEMENT -- INTELLIGENCE -- WHICH IMPACTS DEFENSE POLICY AND WEAPONS ACQUISITION, TERRORISM AND REGIONAL CONFLICTS, DIPLOMACY AND ARMS CONTROL, AND VIRTUALLY EVERY OTHER ASPECT OF OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

THE AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY USES TECHNICAL MARVELS AND PEOPLE WHO WANT TO HELP US TO GATHER FACTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. IT HAS SCHOLARS, SCIENTISTS AND ANALYSTS OF ALL VARIETIES, AT THE MOMENT 60 DISCIPLINES IN ALL, WHO SIFT AND <sup>current</sup> ~~are~~ <sup>analysis and</sup> EVALUATE THIS INFORMATION AND MOLD IT INTO NATIONAL ESTIMATES RELEVANT TO THE ISSUES WHICH CONFRONT THE LEADERS AND DECISION-MAKERS OF OUR GOVERNMENT. THIS WORK IS MUCH LIKE YOURS. WE BOTH WORK AT THE COLLECTION AND PROPER PRESENTATION OF ACCURATE INFORMATION THAT LEADS TO INFORMED JUDGMENTS. OUR OFFICERS OVERSEAS, LIKE YOUR CORRESPONDENTS, WORK DAY AND NIGHT TO OBTAIN VITAL INFORMATION. LIKE MANY SKILLED JOURNALISTS, CIA ANALYSTS SPEND HOURS PORING OVER REPORTS FROM MANY DIFFERENT SOURCES IN ORDER TO PRESENT FACTS IN THE CONTEXT OF BROADER EVENTS AND ISSUES.

NEITHER YOU NOR THE CIA CAN DO ITS JOB WITHOUT HAVING SOURCES AND METHODS OF COLLECTING INFORMATION WHICH OFTEN MUST REMAIN UNIDENTIFIED TO THE PUBLIC. I AM REQUIRED BY LAW TO PROTECT THE SOURCES AND METHODS BY WHICH WE COLLECT INTELLIGENCE. THIS IS A SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY AND ONE I DO NOT TAKE LIGHTLY. YOU IN JOURNALISM TAKE JUST AS SERIOUSLY YOUR RIGHT TO MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF YOUR SOURCES.

OUR COUNTRY, THROUGH ITS INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES, HAS INVESTED TIME, EFFORT, AND TALENT OVER MANY YEARS AND SPENT MANY BILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO DEVELOP SOURCES AND METHODS OF COLLECTING THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO ASSESS MISSILES AND OTHER WEAPONS AIMED AT US, TO DETERMINE INTENTIONS AND VULNERABILITIES OF THOSE WHO PLOT AGAINST THE U.S. SO THAT WE CAN DEVELOP EFFECTIVE DEFENSES AND COUNTERMEASURES, TO PROTECT OUR CITIZENS AND INSTALLATIONS AROUND THE WORLD FROM TERRORIST ATTACKS, AND TO ASSIST OUR DIPLOMATS. INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS ARE CRITICAL TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY, INCLUDING OUR HOPES OF EFFECTIVE ARMS CONTROL AND THE SAFETY OF AND LIBERTY OF OUR CITIZENS. SECRECY AND CONFIDENTIALITY WITH RESPECT TO HOW AND THROUGH WHOM WE COLLECT INFORMATION IS CENTRAL TO OUR EFFECTIVENESS.

WE CLASSIFY AND RESTRICT THE CIRCULATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT HOW AND WHERE WE COLLECT INTELLIGENCE AND OF THE REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS BASED ON THAT INTELLIGENCE IF THEY MIGHT REVEAL OR COMPROMISE THE SOURCES OR METHODS. THE KGB AND OTHER HOSTILE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES SPEND BILLIONS OF DOLLARS EACH YEAR IN AN EFFORT TO ACQUIRE THIS INFORMATION. AND THE UNAUTHORIZED PUBLICATION OF THIS RESTRICTED INFORMATION HANDS TO OUR ADVERSARIES ON A SILVER PLATTER INFORMATION THAT THEIR SPIES, THEIR RESEARCHERS, AND THEIR SATELLITES ARE WORKING 24 HOURS A DAY TO UNCOVER AND TO USE AGAINST US.

IN RECENT YEARS, PUBLICATION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION BY THE MEDIA HAS DESTROYED OR SERIOUSLY DAMAGED INTELLIGENCE SOURCES OF THE HIGHEST VALUE. EVERY METHOD OF ACQUIRING INTELLIGENCE WE HAVE -- OUR AGENTS, OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER SECURITY SERVICES, OUR PHOTOGRAPHIC AND ELECTRONIC PLATFORMS, OUR INFORMATION WE GET FROM COMMUNICATIONS, EVEN A BRAND NEW METHOD OF COLLECTION WHICH WILL COST A BILLION DOLLARS AND WHICH CANNOT BE DEPLOYED FOR SOME YEARS -- HAS BEEN DAMAGED BY UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES. THE INABILITY TO CONTROL SENSITIVE INFORMATION IS DESTRUCTIVE OF MORALE OF PEOPLE WHO DO KEEP SECRETS. IT UNDERMINES OUR POLICY PROCESSES. IT DETERS OTHER GOVERNMENTS FROM SHARING INFORMATION AND DEALING WITH US. BILLIONS OF DOLLARS <sup>of</sup> ~~AND~~ INVESTMENT AND THE LIVES OF  OUR EMPLOYEES AND OTHER CITIZENS HAVE BEEN LOST OR PUT AT GREAT RISK.

duplicate second sentence of previous paragraph

I CAN TELL YOU THAT IN THE FIVE-PLUS YEARS I HAVE BEEN DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE, <sup>intelligence activities</sup> ~~VIRTUALLY EVERY METHOD WE~~ HAVE BEEN <sup>gravely</sup> ~~ABLE TO DEVELOP TO OBTAIN NEEDED INFORMATION HAS~~ <sup>Such exposure shows our enemies</sup> ~~BEEN~~ DAMAGED BY EXPOSURE IN THE MEDIA. <sup>IT SHOWS</sup> HOW TO COUNTER CAPABILITIES IN WHICH WE HAVE INVESTED BILLIONS OF DOLLARS AND MANY YEARS OF CREATIVE TALENT AND EFFORT. I COULD GIVE YOU LURID EXAMPLES OF HOW MEDIA EXPOSURE OF OUR CAPABILITIES HAS PROVIDED INFORMATION AND <sup>sometimes forced us</sup> ~~TIME TIME~~ TO ABORT HUGE INVESTMENTS, ENABLED OUR ADVERSARIES TO CONCEAL AND OTHERWISE DENY US INFORMATION CRITICAL TO OUR DEFENSE, DEPRIVE US OF THE ABILITY TO PROTECT OUR CITIZENS FROM TERRORIST ATTACK. THE LEAKERS ARE COSTING THE TAXPAYERS MILLIONS AND EVEN BILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

I AM NOT HERE TO LIMIT YOU IN ANY WAY FROM GETTING THE INFORMATION THE PUBLIC NEEDS AND SHOULD HAVE. I BELIEVE WE ARE ALL WORKING TOWARD THE SAME GOAL -- MAINTAINING THE BEST <sup>informed</sup> AND MOST FREE COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. I FULLY SUPPORT AND ADMIRE YOUR COMMITMENT TO INFORM THE PUBLIC AND THE DEDICATION AND INGENUITY WITH WHICH YOU MEET THAT COMMITMENT.

BUT I DO BELIEVE WE ALL HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES WE MUST BALANCE. IT'S A VERY DELICATE AND DIFFICULT BALANCE TO STRIKE. I THINK MRS. KATHARINE GRAHAM GOT IT RIGHT IN A VERY THOUGHTFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE SPEECH SHE MADE AT THE GUILDHALL IN LONDON LAST DECEMBER. IT WAS ON TERRORISM AND THE MEDIA.

SHE RECITED THE STORY OF HOW A TELEVISION NETWORK AND A COLUMNIST HAD OBTAINED INFORMATION THAT WE WERE READING THE MESSAGES OF PEOPLE ARRANGING THE BOMBING OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BEIRUT. SHORTLY AFTER THIS PUBLIC DISCLOSURE THE TRAFFIC CEASED. THIS UNDERMINED EFFORTS TO CAPTURE THE TERRORIST LEADERS AND ELIMINATED A SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT FUTURE ATTACKS.

MRS. GRAHAM WENT ON TO SAY: "THIS KIND OF RESULT, ALBEIT UNINTENTIONAL, POINTS UP THE NECESSITY FOR FULL COOPERATION WHEREVER POSSIBLE BETWEEN THE MEDIA AND THE AUTHORITIES. WHEN THE MEDIA OBTAINS ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE INFORMATION, WE ARE WILLING TO TELL THE AUTHORITIES WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED AND WHAT WE PLAN TO REPORT. AND WHILE RESERVING THE RIGHT TO MAKE THE FINAL DECISION OURSELVES, WE ARE ANXIOUS TO LISTEN TO ARGUMENTS ABOUT WHY INFORMATION SHOULD NOT BE AIRED. [THE MEDIA] WANT TO DO NOTHING THAT WOULD ENDANGER HUMAN LIFE OR NATIONAL SECURITY. WE ARE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN WITHHOLDING INFORMATION THAT COULD HAVE THOSE CONSEQUENCES."

I SUBMIT THESE PRINCIPLES APPLY WITH THE SAME FORCE TO COSTLY INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITIES CRITICAL TO THE SECURITY OF OUR NATION AND THE SAFETY OF OUR CITIZENS AS <sup>they do</sup> ~~IT DOES~~ TO TARGETS ~~THREATENED BY TERRORISM.~~

I HAVE WITNESSED ADMIRABLE RESTRAINT AND JUDGMENT BY JOURNALISTS. I HAVE BEEN GRATIFIED BY THE READINESS OF MANY OF YOU TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER WITHHOLDING PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE NATIONAL INTERESTS BY TREATING OR PRESENTING A STORY IN A MANNER WHICH MEETS THE PUBLIC NEED, YET MINIMIZES POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO INTELLIGENCE SOURCES. THE TRICK IS TO RECOGNIZE THE POTENTIAL FOR DAMAGE AND TO CONSULT ON HOW IT MIGHT BE MINIMIZED. WE ARE ALWAYS READY AND AVAILABLE TO HELP IN THIS.

I HASTEN TO ADD, HOWEVER, THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF PREVENTING THESE TYPES OF LEAKS IS TO INCREASE DISCIPLINE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT. DURING THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE PRESIDENT HAS EMPHASIZED THE SPECIAL OBLIGATION FEDERAL WORKERS HAVE TO PROTECT THE CLASSIFIED INFORMATION WITH WHICH THEY ARE ENTRUSTED. WE HAVE INCREASED OUR EFFORTS TO UNCOVER THOSE WHO VIOLATE THIS SPECIAL TRUST BY DISCLOSING SENSITIVE INFORMATION TO THOSE NOT AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE IT. WE ARE STUDYING WHETHER NEW LAWS ARE NEEDED TO DEAL WITH FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WHO DECIDE ON THEIR OWN TO DISCLOSE CLASSIFIED INFORMATION WITHOUT REGARD TO THE LIVES THAT ARE JEOPARDIZED OR THE COLLECTION SYSTEMS THAT ARE COMPROMISED.

IN STRIVING TO PROTECT LEGITIMATE SECRETS FROM DISCLOSURE, WE TRY TO LIMIT DISTRIBUTION OF ~~THEIR~~ INFORMATION UNLESS IT HAS BEEN SANITIZED TO THE POINT WHERE THE SOURCE CANNOT POSSIBLY

BE IDENTIFIED. WE ALSO ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO KEEP OUR CITIZENS INFORMED ABOUT THE CRITICAL ISSUES WE FACE IN THE WORLD TODAY. WE ALSO TRY TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES ABOUT OUR CONDUCT OF THE INTELLIGENCE BUSINESS.

WHEN OUR INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS REACH THE MEDIA, WHETHER AUTHORIZED OR NOT, WE ARE FREQUENTLY ASKED TO PRODUCE THE EVIDENCE WHICH SUPPORTS OUR JUDGMENTS. SOMETIMES WE CAN, MUCH MORE OFTEN WE CANNOT WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING OUR SOURCES OR TEACHING OUR ADVERSARIES HOW TO DENY US NEEDED INFORMATION IN THE FUTURE.

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT LESSON THE HARD WAY. IN 1982, WE RESPONDED TO THE CALL TO "PROVE" THE JUDGMENT OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY THAT WEAPONS AND GUIDANCE TO VIOLENTLY OVERTHROW THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT WERE BEING SENT OVER THE BORDER FROM NICARAGUA. ADMIRAL INMAN, MY DEPUTY AT THE TIME, PRESENTED SUPPORTING DETAILS, WITH PHOTOGRAPHS AND MAPS, TO THE NATIONAL MEDIA GATHERED AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

WHAT HAPPENED? A GREAT MANY JOURNALISTS, EDITORS AND LEGISLATORS REMAINED SKEPTICAL BECAUSE FOR SECURITY REASONS WE COULD TELL ONLY PART OF THE STORY, BUT NONETHELESS IN SHORT ORDER THE NICARAGUANS GLEANED ENOUGH FROM THE DETAIL PRESENTED TO THEM BY ADMIRAL INMAN TO CUT US OFF FROM MUCH OF THE SENSITIVE DATA WHICH HAD SUPPORTED OUR JUDGMENT. NOW, ALMOST FOUR YEARS

LATER, VIRTUALLY EVERYBODY RECOGNIZES THAT THE ESSENTIAL SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUED INSURGENCY IN EL SALVADOR HAS COME FROM NICARAGUA, BUT WE HAVE HAD TO SPEND A LOT OF TIME AND MONEY TO FIND NEW WAYS TO COLLECT THE INFORMATION WE NEED.

IF WE CAN'T REVEAL OUR EVIDENCE OR DISCLOSE OUR SOURCES, WHY SHOULD THE POLICYMAKERS OR THE PUBLIC TRUST INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS? OUR PRIMARY CREDIBILITY COMES FROM THE ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY OF OUR PAST ASSESSMENTS AND FROM THE CONTINUED DEDICATION AND INTEGRITY OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PROCESS BY WHICH THEY ARE PRODUCED. OUR INTELLIGENCE PRODUCTS ARE THE WORK OF CAREER PROFESSIONALS BASED ON INFORMATION FROM A WIDE VARIETY OF SOURCES AND THE MOST SOPHISTICATED AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY WHICH EXISTS IN THE WORLD -- PHOTOGRAPHY, SPACE SATELLITES, ELECTRONICS, ACOUSTICS, COMMUNICATIONS COLLECTORS, SEISMIC SENSORS AND OTHER SENSORS.

OUR NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES ARE THE RESULT OF LONG HOURS OF PREPARATION AND DEBATE BY ANALYSTS FROM THE DIA, CIA, NSA, ARMY, NAVY, MARINES, AND AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE ARMS AND OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. THEIR WORK IS REVIEWED BY THE CHIEFS OF EACH COMPONENT OF THE COMMUNITY -- STATE, DEFENSE, ARMY, NAVY, FBI, CIA, NSA AND OTHERS -- SITTING AS THE NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD. EACH OF THESE CHIEFS IS CHARGED WITH SEEING THAT THE RELEVANT INFORMATION AND JUDGMENTS HELD BY THEIR ORGANIZATIONS ARE ACCURATELY REFLECTED. AS THE

BOARD'S CHAIRMAN, I SEE THAT ANY SUBSTANTIATED DISSENTING OR ALTERNATIVE VIEW IS REFLECTED SO THAT POLICYMAKERS HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THE FULL RANGE OF OPINION IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

IN A WORLD WHERE THE SOVIET BLOC SPENDS LAVISHLY ON NEW WEAPONS AND WORKS AGGRESSIVELY TO EXPAND ITS CONTROL AND INFLUENCE AT OUR EXPENSE AND WHERE SOVEREIGN STATES, LIKE LIBYA, USE TERRORISM AS AN INSTRUMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY, IT IS INCREASINGLY ESSENTIAL THAT THE PUBLIC LEARN WHAT SORTS OF CHALLENGES THEIR GOVERNMENT IS FACING.

WE MAKE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FROM BOTH THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES TO SANITIZE OR DECLASSIFY INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENTS AND MAKE THEM AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC. PERHAPS THE BEST EXAMPLE OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE PUBLIC DEBATE ON IMPORTANT ISSUES OF NATIONAL SECURITY HAS BEEN DIA'S ANNUAL PUBLICATION, SOVIET MILITARY POWER, WHICH IS CLOSELY COORDINATED BY CIA. LAST SUMMER THE COMMUNITY AT THE REQUEST OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESS PRESENTED IN OPEN TESTIMONY AN UNCLASSIFIED DISCUSSION OF SOVIET STRATEGIC FORCES.

MORE FREQUENTLY, HOWEVER, CIA MATERIAL IS DECLASSIFIED FOR USE IN OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS, SUCH AS STATE'S WHITE PAPERS ON TERRORISM AND TWO PUBLICATIONS DISTRIBUTED BY THE

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS ON SOVIET ACQUISITION OF WESTERN TECHNOLOGY. WE DO NOT SEEK TO TAKE THE LEAD IN THE PUBLIC DISSEMINATION OF INTELLIGENCE LEST IT SEND THE WRONG SIGNALS TO OUR FRIENDS AND SOURCES OVERSEAS. WHENEVER INTELLIGENCE IS USED AS THE SOURCE FOR UNCLASSIFIED PUBLICATIONS, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE STAY WITHIN THE EVIDENCE TO MAINTAIN CIA'S INTEGRITY AND TO PROTECT THE POLICYMAKER. THERE IS NO CREDIT TO EITHER WHEN ASSERTIONS MADE IN A WHITE PAPER CANNOT BE SUPPORTED BY HARD INTELLIGENCE.

THIS ORDERLY AND CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO THE PUBLIC USE OF INTELLIGENCE IS GUIDED BY THE HIGHEST GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AND INVOLVES THE CLOSE PARTICIPATION OF INTELLIGENCE PROFESSIONALS. IT IS A FAR CRY FROM THE RISKY AND DANGEROUS UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES OR LEAKS BY INDIVIDUALS, WHATEVER THEIR MOTIVE. JUST AS YOU AND YOUR REPORTERS REFUSE TO JEOPARDIZE YOUR SOURCES, WE CANNOT LET YOU OR ANYONE ELSE BE THE JUDGE OF WHETHER OR NOT OUR SOURCES SHOULD BE SECRET OR WHETHER OR NOT THEIR INFORMATION IS SENSITIVE. WHEN WE PROMISE OUR SOURCES CONFIDENTIALITY, WE IN MANY CASES LITERALLY HOLD THEIR LIVES IN OUR HANDS.

AS WE RESPECT THE RIGHT OF THE PRESS TO GATHER AND PUBLISH NEWS AND APPLAUD YOUR EXPOSURE OF WASTE, CORRUPTION, AND OTHER MISCONDUCT, I HOPE YOU WILL RESPECT OUR RIGHT AND DUTY TO KEEP THE NATION'S LEGITIMATE SECRETS. AMONG THE THOUSANDS OF EDITORIALS ABOUT THE FAILINGS AND SHORTCOMINGS OF GOVERNMENT

EMPLOYEES, I CAN RECALL FEW, IF ANY, THAT TOOK A PUBLIC SERVANT TO TASK FOR REVEALING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. YET CLASSIFIED LEAKS ARE AT LEAST AS DAMAGING AS THE COST OVERRUNS, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, AND OTHER TYPES OF MALFEASANCE SO PROPERLY CRITICIZED BY THE PRESS. THE AMERICAN MEDIA PRIDE THEMSELVES ON FAIRNESS. SOME INTROSPECTION MIGHT BE IN ORDER REGARDING HOW THE PRESS RESPONDS TO OFFICIAL WRONGDOING WHEN THAT WRONGDOING BENEFITS THE PRESS.

WE ARE EAGER TO DEVELOP BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN YOU IN THE WORKING PRESS, WHO PERFORM SUCH A VITAL FUNCTION IN OUR SOCIETY, AND THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, WHICH PLAYS AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN PROTECTING THIS NATION. AMERICA NEEDS A FREE, VIGOROUS PRESS AND IT NEEDS A SUPERIOR INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. WE ARE BOTH SERVING OUR COUNTRY.

THANK YOU.

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